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Democratic candidates propose new plans for corporate pay and crime

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Fire Destroys Clinton Campaign Office

3 hours ago

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP) — Firefighters are investigating a blaze that destroyed the presidential campaign office of Hillary Rodham Clinton in Terre Haute.

The fire broke out after midnight Friday, and flames were coming from the building when firefighters arrived. No one was reported injured.

Homeland security spokeswoman Pam Bright said an investigator from the state fire marshal's office is heading to the scene.

Clinton is battling Illinois Sen. Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination. Both candidates have set up offices throughout Indiana as they vie for the state's 72 delegates in the May 6 primary.

Clinton's campaign had no immediate comment. Two calls to the Terre Haute Fire Department spokesman were not immediately returned.

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Democratic candidates propose new plans for corporate pay and crime

- [Daniel Nasaw](#) in Washington and agencies
- [guardian.co.uk](#),
- Friday April 11 2008
- Article history

About this article

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Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama is proposing that shareholders be given a say in corporate executive pay, in a bid to woo working class voters.

His rival Hillary Clinton today unveiled a costly anti-crime initiative that would include programs meant to reduce recidivism among ex-convicts and put more police officers on the streets.

In Indianapolis, Indiana, today, Obama will call on Congress to pass legislation he has introduced that would give investors a non-binding vote on executive compensation packages. Shareholders won't be able to veto the package or limit corporate chiefs' pay, but will have a means to voice their opinion.

Widening income inequality has been a concern among the Democratic electorate. Outlandish corporate executive pay, sometimes offered even as share price and earnings growth lag, have emboldened critics of Wall Street.

A study by USA Today found that the top 50 chief executive officers made about \$15.7 million last year, even as many of their companies performed poorly. In 2005, the average CEO earned 262 times the pay of an average worker.

"This isn't just about expressing outrage," Obama says in prepared remarks. "It's about changing a system where bad behaviour is rewarded so that we can hold CEOs accountable, and make sure they're acting in a way that's good for their company, good for our economy, and good for America, not just good for themselves."

Obama is in the second day of a three-day swing through Indiana, where voters go to the polls May 6.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia today Clinton proposed an ambitious \$4bn program of grants and increased funding for new police officers intended to halve the US murder rate and decrease recidivism among ex-convicts.

Clinton proposed putting 100,000 new police officers on the streets and a federal initiative to crack down on illegal gun trafficking. She called for a \$1bn "close the revolving door" grant program of "tough but fair" reforms to the probation system, intended to keep non-violent drug offenders out of prison if they stay clean and out of trouble.

The proposal also includes programs to fight methamphetamine and crack down on "child exploitation online" and identity theft. Clinton also called for an increased federal role in after-school and mentoring programs to keep at-risk youth from turning to crime.

"It is a sad day in America when the president can find hundreds of billions of dollars to police another country's civil war, but cuts funding for police officers right here at home," Clinton said in Philadelphia.

"It's about the federal government living up to its responsibility to help restore order in our communities, pave the way for economic development and new jobs, and help our families feel safe in their homes and neighbourhoods."

Clinton would pay for the proposal with savings to be identified by a commission appointed to "identify unnecessary and outdated corporate subsidies for elimination."

Also today, disaster struck the Clinton campaign when a campaign office in Terre Haute, Indiana was destroyed by fire. The fire broke out after midnight, and flames were coming from the building when fire fighters arrived. No one was reported injured.

Homeland security spokeswoman Pam Bright said an investigator from the state fire marshal's office is heading to the scene.

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